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Northwest **Power** and **Conservation** Council

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Washington

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Washington

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Oregon

February 3, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Stacy Horton, Washington Policy Analyst, Biologist

SUBJECT: Regional Coordinator Reports on Invasive Species Efforts

BACKGROUND:

Presenters: Jessica LaBelle, Invasive Species Program Specialist, Washington Invasive Species Council
Russ Hartzell, Program Coordinator, Montana Invasive Species Council
Keith DeHart, Invasive Species and Wildlife Integrity Coordinator for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Blaine Parker, Invasive Species Project Lead, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
Nic Zurfluh, Bureau Chief for Invasive Species, Noxious Weeds, and Range Programs, Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Summary: The 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (Program) includes a strategy which acknowledges the threat to fish and wildlife mitigation from non-native and invasive species. Impacts occur through predation, competition for food, interbreeding, disease transmission, food web disruption, and physical habitat alteration. For the last 10 years non-native and invasive species have been the 3rd highest emerging program priority, important to preserving program effectiveness.

The regional state and tribal invasive species coordinators are important to the Council's work through their efforts to raise awareness about invasive species, identify potential pathways and threats to mitigation, and point out the importance

of prevention efforts underway. Coordinators will present a cross-section of the work they do to prevent and address invasive species in our region. National Invasive Species Awareness Week occurs February 23-27, making this presentation particularly timely.

Jessica LaBelle will present on the Emerald Ash Borer and an approach to development of a Resources and Management Guide. She will touch on the spotted lanternfly and Washington's invasive species APP.

Russ Hartzell will be discussing the prevention campaign *Buy It Where You Burn It – prevent the transport of firewood that could have invasive tree pests*.

Keith DeHart will provide an update on Oregon's proactive efforts to combat aquatic invasive species. Thanks to recent legislation, the state is building strong partnerships to expand watercraft inspection stations and securing increased funding through the Waterway Access Pass—both critical steps to protect waterways and preserve Oregon's natural resources.

Blaine Parker will present on recent tribal resolutions, BIA invasive species grants and Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission monitoring of Northern Pike in the Columbia River Basin.

Nic Zurfluh, will provide an update on mid-Snake River quagga mussel efforts.

Background: The 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (Program) includes a strategy to address non-native and invasive species. Invasive species can have devastating impacts on ecosystems, food webs, and biodiversity. Habitat investments can be diminished, and ecosystem function degraded when invasive species become a problem as their environmental cost is vast - they transmit disease, increase predation, compete for resources, outnumber native species, reduce species diversity, and create cascading ecosystem effects like trophic food web changes

Prevention, suppression, and eradication efforts are called for in the Council's Program strategy on non-native and invasive species. The Council acknowledges the direct threats to the program's fish and wildlife restoration efforts from invasive and non-native species.

Principles developed by the Council to address invasive species include early detection and rapid response, public education, coordination, and shared data efforts, legislative work, and other actions to rapidly respond, prevent, contain, eradicate, enforce, educate, and conduct outreach to control species where they threaten the Columbia Basin ecosystem and the regional hydropower system.

Some of the actions called for under the General measures on non-native invasive species in the Program call for:

- **Evaluate potential adverse impacts**, to include coordination with federal, state, tribal and regional partners such as the 100th Meridian Initiative.
- **Prevent establishment in conjunction with partners**, to include monitoring and managing pathways of introduction, development of control strategies, public outreach tools, and a request that Bonneville Power Administration assist state efforts to prevent the establishment of zebra and quagga mussels.
- **Monitor and control introductions and dispersal** by calling on the four Northwest states to closely coordinate species management plans and prevention efforts, to include British Columbia.
- **Remove and eradicate** by applying new and existing research to maximize effectiveness, using removal methods that are effective and protect native species, monitor success, use lethal control methods consistent with laws, prioritize control actions to address most significant threats, and finally calls on BPA, federal agencies, and FERC-licensed utilities to support rapid response efforts should zebra and quagga mussels become established.
- **Regional Coordination** directed at addressing those species that pose the greatest risk to the Columbia River Basin and the regional hydropower system by assisting with regional communication, coordination, and public outreach efforts, by facilitation of science/policy forums on non-native invasive species issues and helping with legislative efforts directed at invasive species.

More info:

Washington Invasive Species Council

<https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/>

Montana Invasive Species Council

<https://invasivespecies.mt.gov/misc/>

Oregon Invasive Species Council

<https://www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/>

Idaho Invasive Species Council

<https://invasivespecies.idaho.gov/idaho-invasive-species-council>

[Western Aquatic Invasive Species Resource Center](#)

[Western Governors' Biosecurity and Invasive Species Initiative Special Report](#)

[Western Governors' Policy Resolution 2022-11, Biosecurity an Invasive Species Management](#)



The Washington State Emerald Ash Borer Resources & Management Guide

Jessica La Belle

Invasive Species Program Specialist
Washington Invasive Species Council

10 February 2026

Northwest Power and Conservation Council

What is the Washington Invasive Species Council?

Established by the Legislature in 2006, extended in 2011, 2016, and 2020. Currently, the council exists until June 30, 2032.

Mission:

The council provides policy level direction, planning, and coordination that will:

- Empower those engaged in the prevention, detection, and eradication of invasive species.
- Include a strategic plan designed to build upon local, state, and regional efforts, while serving as a forum for invasive species education and communication.

Council Members

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Washington State University

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Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

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Marcie Clement
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Dr. Todd Hass
Puget Sound Partnership

Jason Anderson
Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians

Alexei Calambokidis
Trout Unlimited

United States Bureau of Reclamation

Luca Furnare
United States Customs and Border Protection

Yolanda Inguanzo
United States Department of Agriculture

Regan McNatt
United States Fish and Wildlife Service

United States Forest Service

Sven Spichiger
Washington State Department of Agriculture

Wes Glisson
Washington State Department of Ecology

Justin Bush
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Ray Willard
Washington State Department of Transportation

Dr. Andrea Thorpe
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Advisory Panels & Administration

Industry Advisory Panel Members

Marcie Clement
Avista

Erin Ewald
Taylor Shellfish

Jay Jennings
Northwest Marine Trade Association

Mike Schwisow
Washington State Water Resources Association

Bill Raynolds
Washington Landscape and Nursery Association

Together, this collection of boards and offices provide leadership, funding, and technical assistance.



WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and
Conservation Office

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is a small state agency that manages grant programs to create outdoor recreation opportunities, protect the best of the state’s wildlife habitat and working farms and forests, and help return salmon and orca from near extinction.

The office supports the following organizations:

- Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- Invasive Species Council
- Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office
- Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group



WASHINGTON STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Washington Invasive
Species Council

Biology of the Emerald Ash Borer



UGA1241011

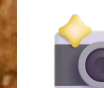
 : Howard Russell, Michigan State University

- Emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis*
- Native to northeast Asia (Russia, Mongolia, China, Korea, Japan)
- Highly invasive
- Woodboring insect
- Kills ash trees in the *Fraxinus* genus
- Unique D-shaped exit holes in tree trunks



 : Debbie Miller, US Forest Service



 : Pennsylvania
Dept of Conservation
& Natural Resources



Biology of the Emerald Ash Borer

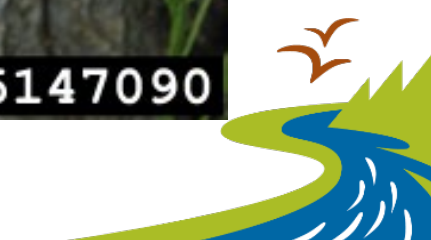


Oregon ash, *Fraxinus latifolia*



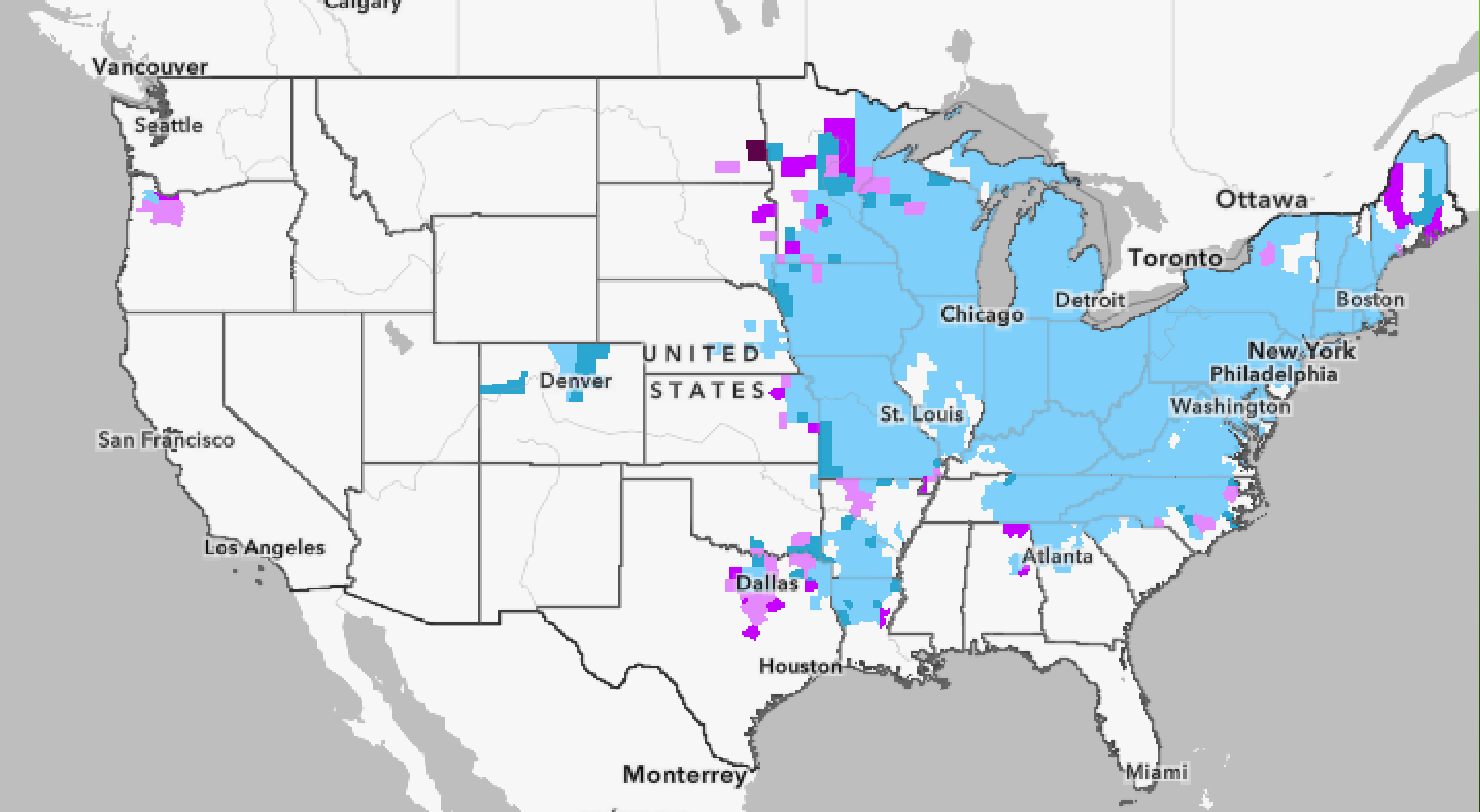
 : Ari Wagner, USDA-APHIS

UGA5147090



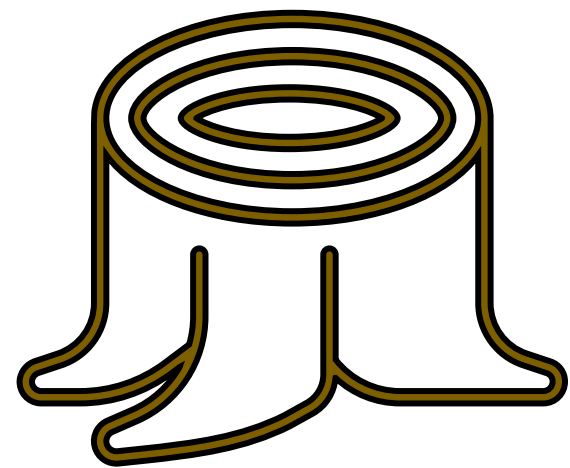
WASHINGTON STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Washington Invasive
Species Council

Current Spread

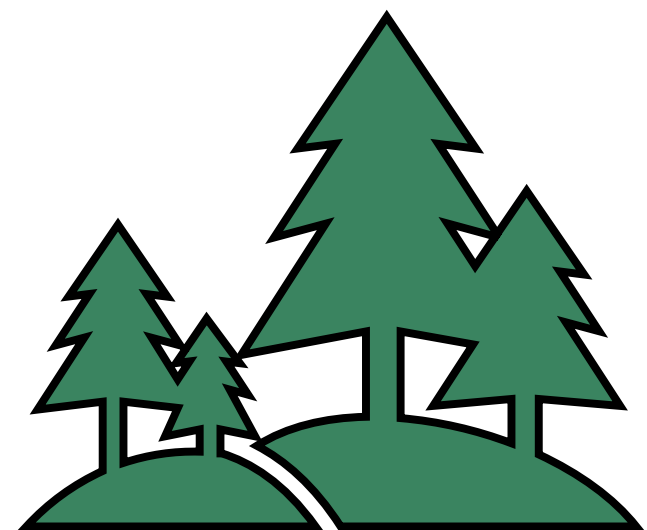


Note this map does not contain detections in British Columbia or Canada as a whole

Why It Matters



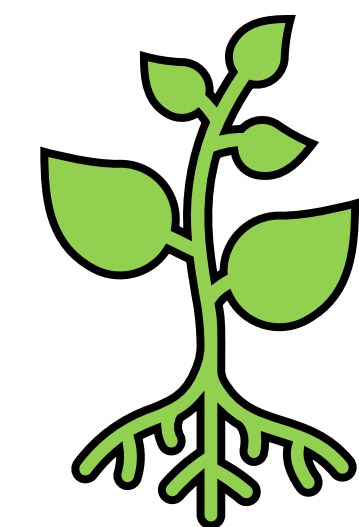
TIMBER
\$3.06 billion



ENVIRONMENT
priceless



COMMUNITIES
priceless



CULTURAL RESOURCES
priceless

Challenges

- Federal de-regulation
 - Removed from United States Department of Agriculture Priority Pest List
- Lack of funding
 - No longer included in wood-boring insect surveys
- Multi-agency jurisdiction
 - Forest pest, not an agricultural pest
 - Reporting & Identification to WSDA, USDA
 - Firewood as a potential pathway



Washington State Emerald Ash Borer Resources & Management Guide

■ Background

- Biology & Lifecycle
- Ash Trees in WA State
- Pest History & Pathways

■ Impacts

- Environmental Risk
- Economic Risk
- Street Trees & Community Impacts
- Cultural Resources

■ Readiness

- Preventative Measures
- Survey & Detection Protocols
- Reporting
- Trapping & Monitoring
- Ash Tree Mapping



■ Response Strategies

- Impacts of No Management
- Planning & Response Strategies

■ Management

- Treatments
- Wood Disposal & Reutilization
- Biological Control
- Ash Removal & Mitigation

■ Outreach & Education

- Communications Plan
- Targeted Outreach Efforts
- Education Management Plan

Washington State Emerald Ash Borer Interagency Working Group

State Partners

- Washington Invasive Species Council
- Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Washington State Department of Ecology
- Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources
- Washington State Parks
- Washington State University

Federal Partners

- United States Department of Agriculture
- US Forest Service

Other Stakeholders

- Samara Group LLC
- Oregon Invasive Species Council
- City of Seattle



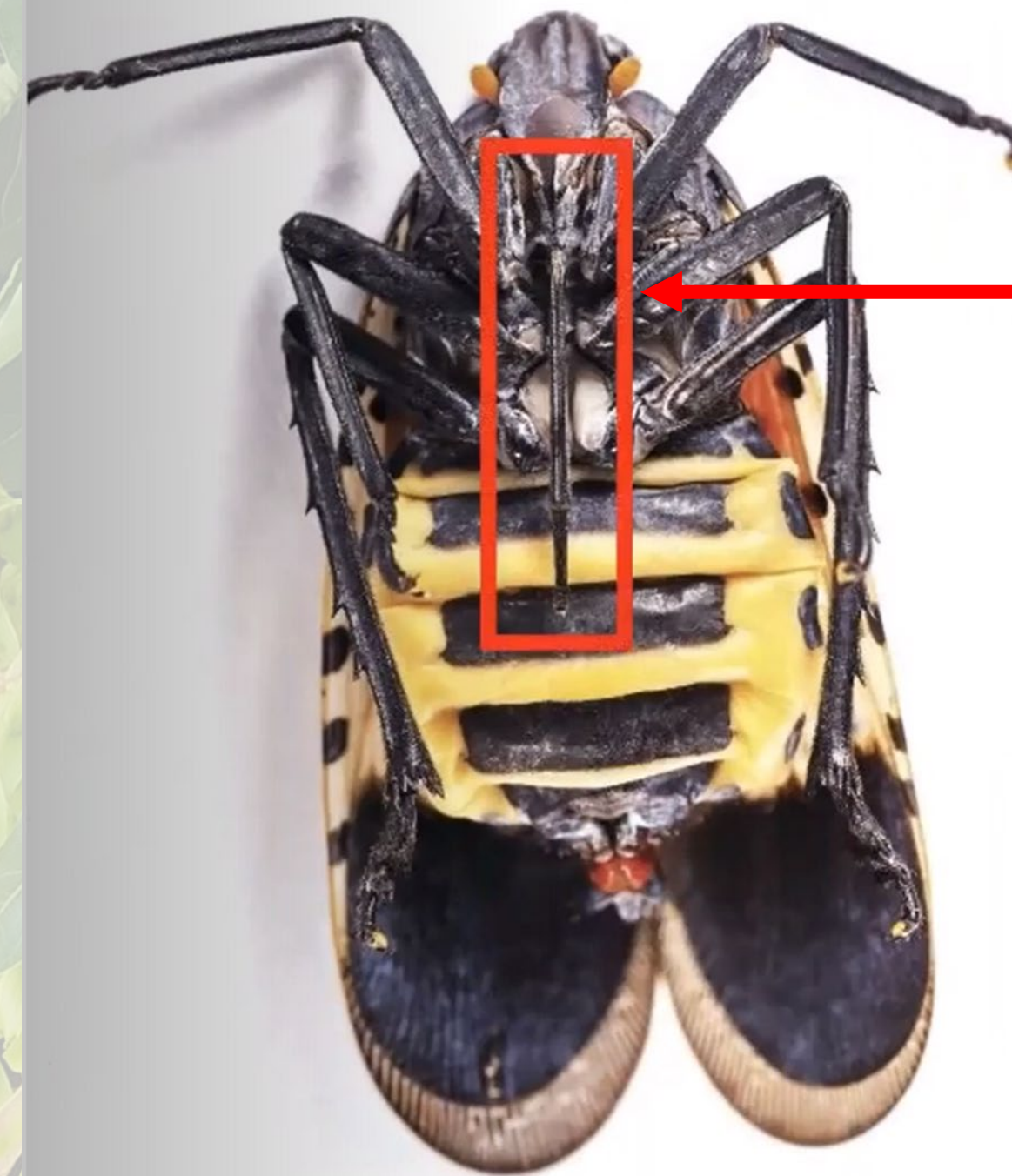
SPOTTED LANTERNFLY OVERVIEW

Lycorma delicatula

- Planthopper, piercing/sucking insect
- Native to China, Bangladesh, Vietnam
- Introduced and invasive to South Korea, Japan, and the US
- Feeds on over 170 known species of plants
- Unique relationship with tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)
- TOH is a Class C weed, meaning it is either widespread or of agricultural concern.



Body Length - 25 mm



Proboscis – 7 mm

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY OVERVIEW

1. Feeding on phloem weakens the plant
2. Excretes honeydew as it feeds
3. Honeydew promotes the growth of sooty mold
4. The weakened plant often dies



Learn more at agr.wa.gov/lanternfly



WASHINGTON STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Washington Invasive
Species Council

Spotted Lanternfly

Preparedness Advisory Group



1. Develop a Spotted Lanternfly Preparedness Advisory Group
2. Develop Geographic Information System (GIS) Planning, Outreach, and Response Support Tools
3. Hold Industry and Stakeholder Workshops
4. Develop State Action Plan
5. Validate Action Plan with Industry and Stakeholders
6. Deploy Preparedness Campaign to Mobilize Industry, Agencies, and the Public
7. Implement Rapid Response Planning, Permitting, and Emergency Funding Processes
8. Share Best Practices and Lessons Learned with A Regional Audience



State Partners

- Washington Invasive Species Council
- Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources
- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Washington State Weed Coordinators' Association
- Washington State Conservation Commission
- Washington State University
- Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Federal Partners

- United States Department of Agriculture
- US Forest Service

Tribal Partners

- Yakama Nation

Industry & Other Stakeholders

- Samara Group LLC
- Washington State Tree Fruit Association
- Washington Hops Commission
- Washington Wine Commission
- Chelan Public Utility District
- Washington Friends of Farms and Forests
- Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad

Washington State Spotted Lanternfly Action Plan



- Short Term Management
- Monitoring and Outreach
- Early Detection
- Rapid Response
- Eradication
- Long Term Management
- Quarantine(s) and Rulemaking
- Tree-of-Heaven Control
- Cultural Impacts
- Potential Economic Impacts
- Best Practices

Learn more at agr.wa.gov/lanternfly

SEE IT, SNAP IT, REPORT IT

Think you have seen an emerald ash borer in Washington?

Take a picture, note the location, and report it!

You can report 3 ways:

On your phone or tablet using the 

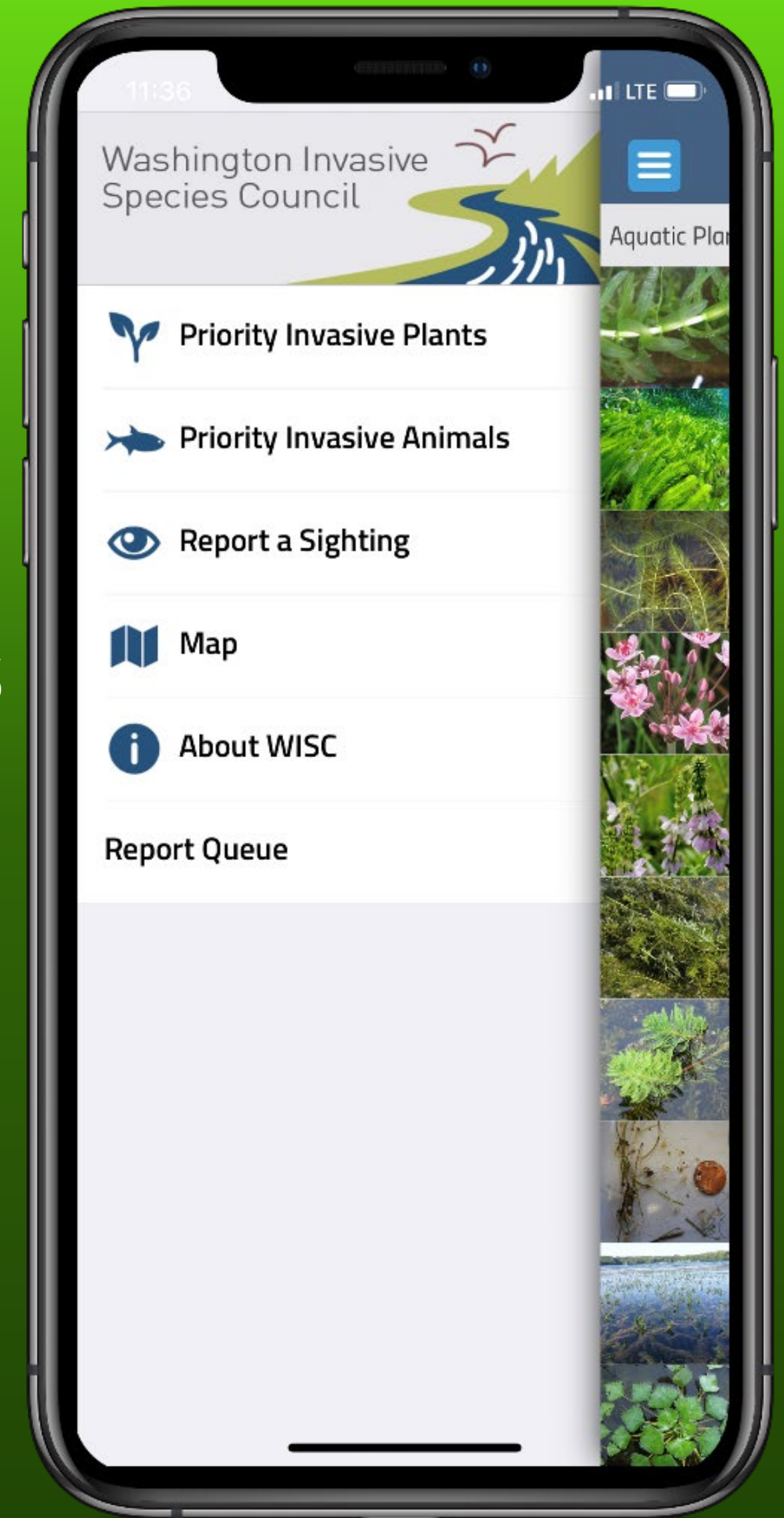
On our website:

invasivespecies.wa.gov/report-a-sighting/

Or email InvasiveSpecies@rco.wa.gov



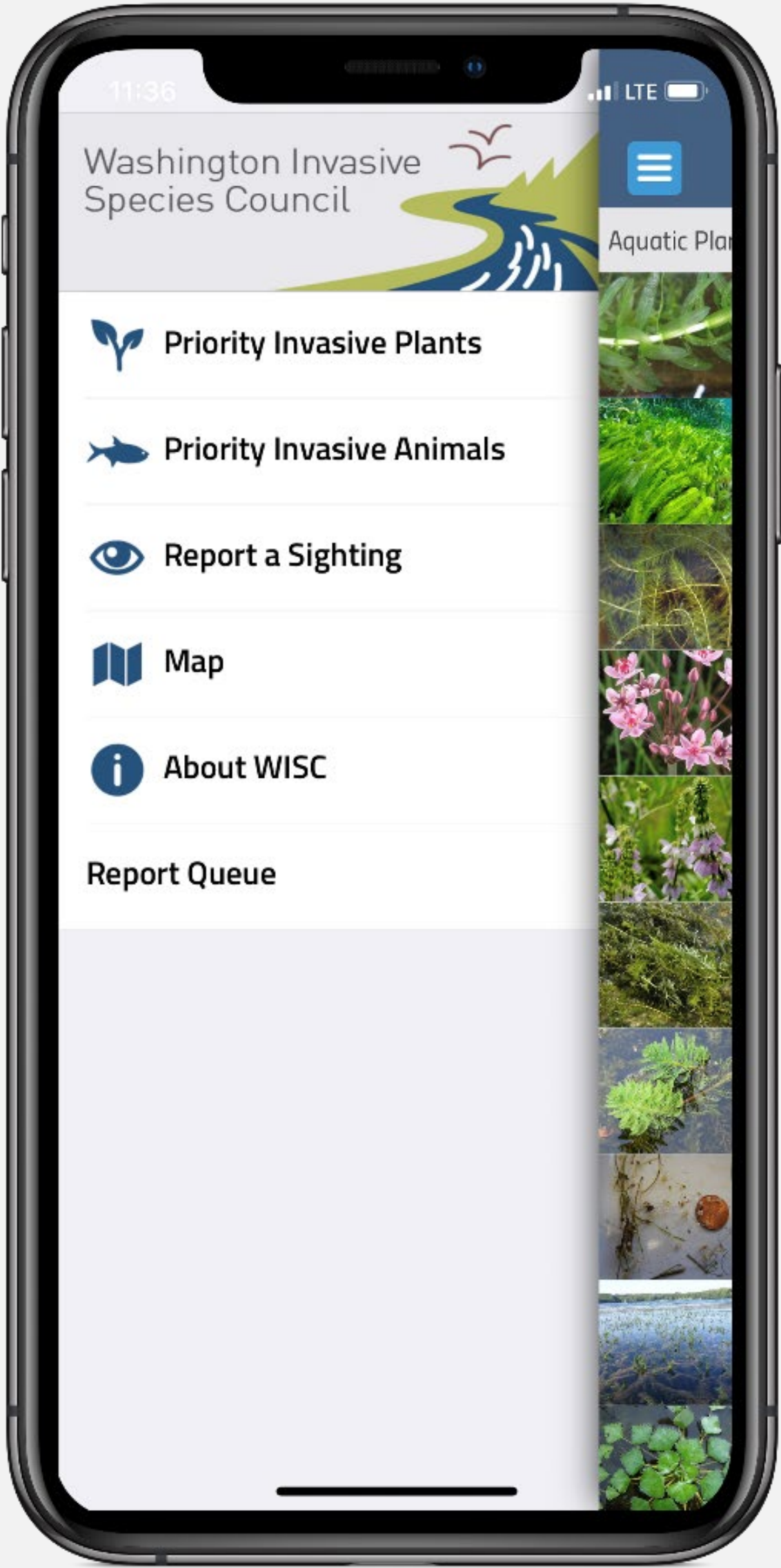
**WA Invasives
app**



QUESTIONS?

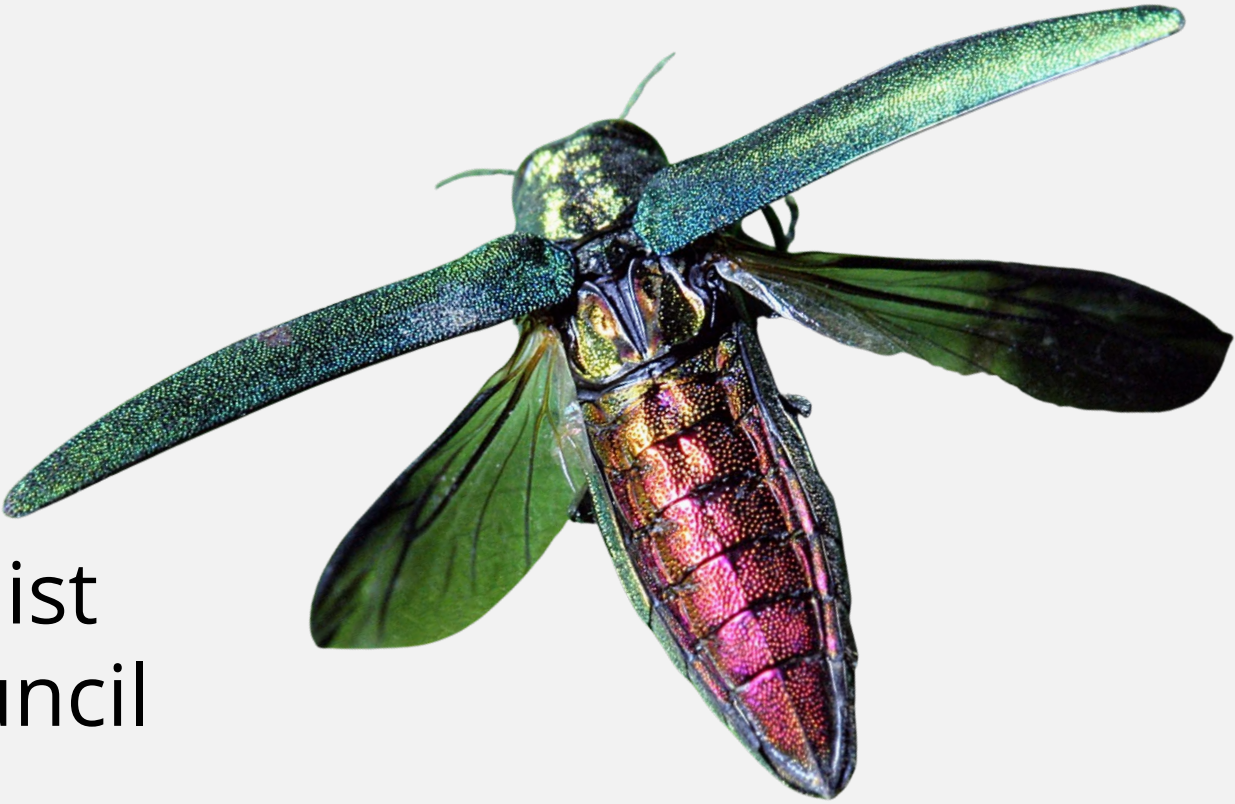


WA Invasives app



Jessica La Belle

Invasive Species Program Specialist
Washington Invasive Species Council
State of Washington
Recreation and Conservation Office
Email: Jessica.LaBelle@rcow.wa.gov
Phone: 360-472-5553
Website: InvasiveSpecies.wa.gov





Russ Hartzell
Program Coordinator:
Montana Invasive
Species Council

Minimizing Firewood as a
Vector for Invasive
Insects and Pathogens

DON'T MOVE
FIREWOOD.org



What is the issue?



Firewood is a major pathway for the movement of wood-inhabiting invasive insects, along with live plants, and wood packaging material.



Studies done by The Nature Conservancy and Oregon State University suggest that around 1/3 of campers regularly transport firewood from home or other distant locations when camping.



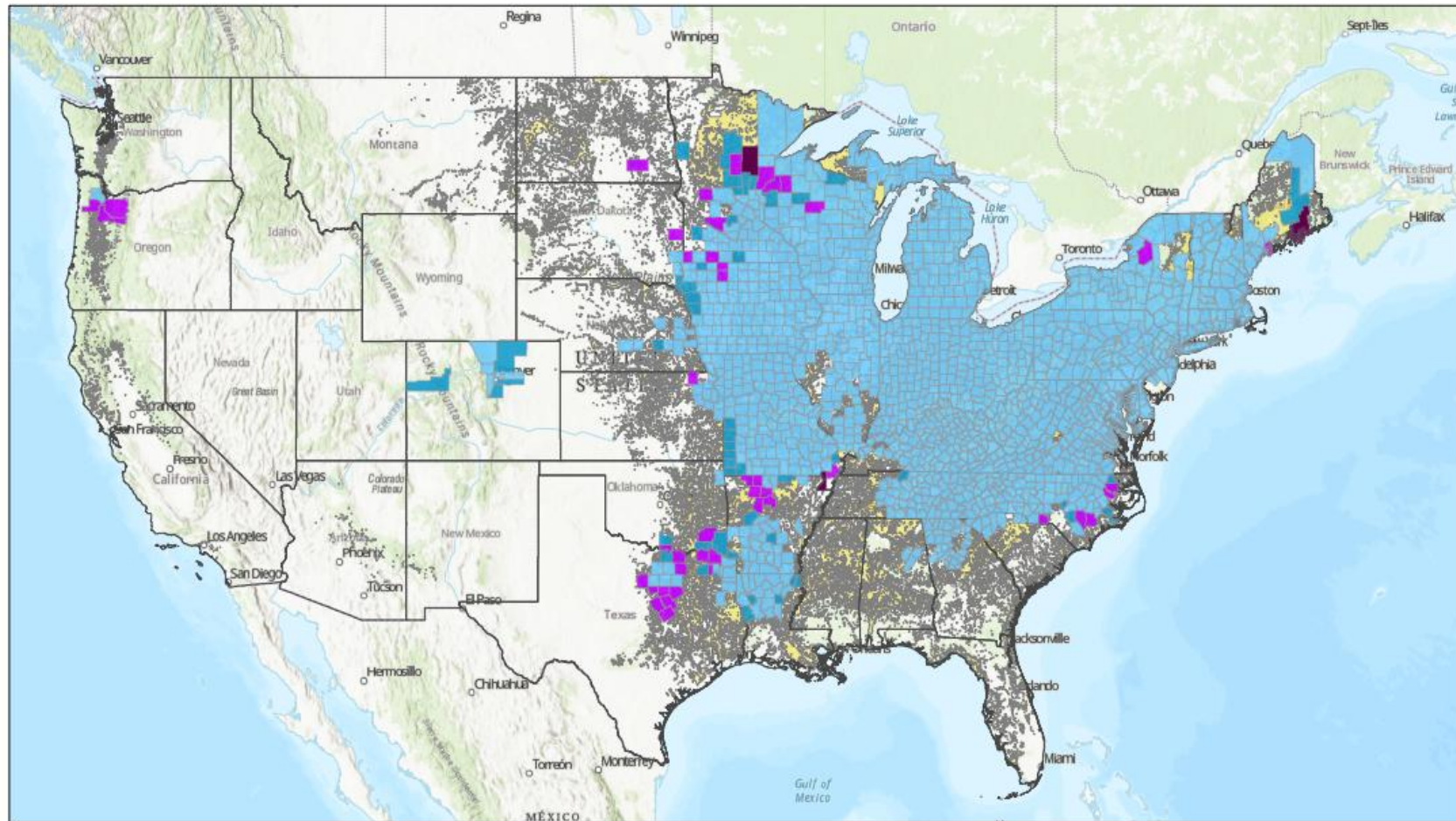
Invasive woody pests can be particularly harmful since they threaten the health of trees which provide habitat, cycle essential soil nutrients, retain water, regulate climate, and provide many other ecosystem services.



Invasive woody pests cause billions of dollars in damages across the US each year.

Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald Ash Borer Beetle Known Infested Counties



5/20/2025, 1:52:00 PM

EAB Known Infested Counties

2002 - 2022

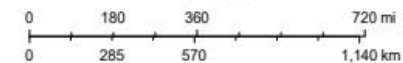
2023

2024

2025

Ash - Local Scale (detailed)

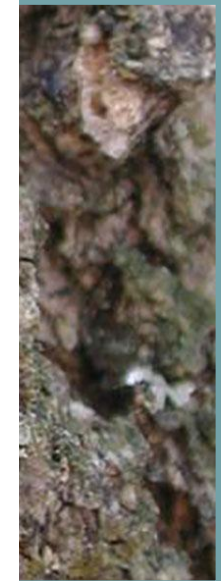
1:18,489,298



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS

USDA APHIS PPQ

Esri, USGS | Missouri DNR, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, USFWS | Sources: Esri, U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau; U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Geodetic Survey (NGS)



EAB adult
the Ash tree
mate, a
females
around 3-
before
starting to
over 2

LATE MAY

The pupa finally turn
into EAB adults
(beetles) and leave
the Ash tree bark
with D-shaped exit
holes

Asian Long-horned Beetle

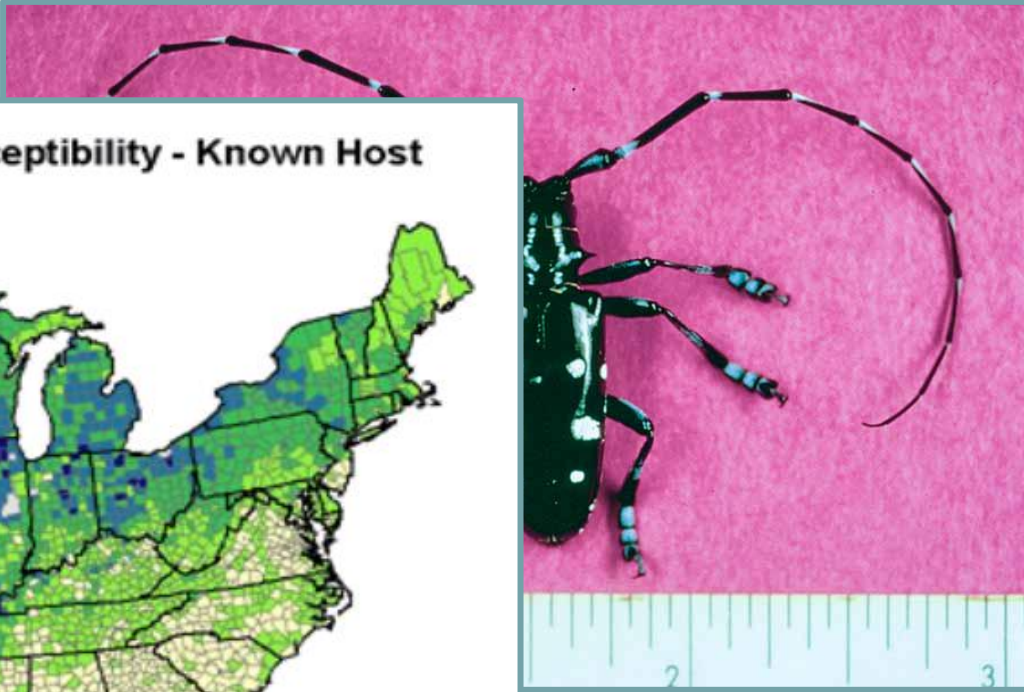
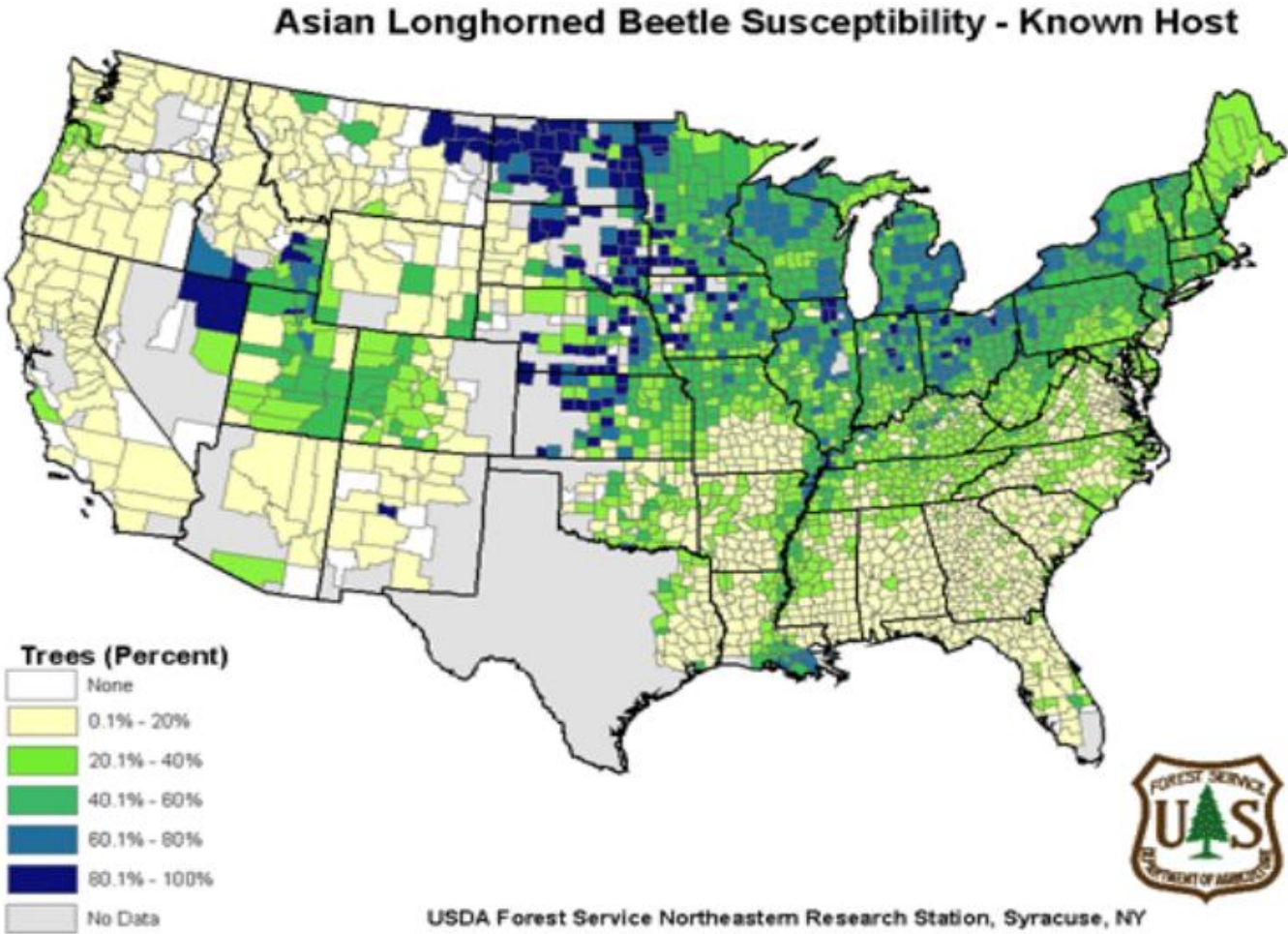
SUMMER TO MID-FALL

The ALB adults feed on tree leaves and twig bark throughout mating and egg-laying periods

MID-LATE MAY

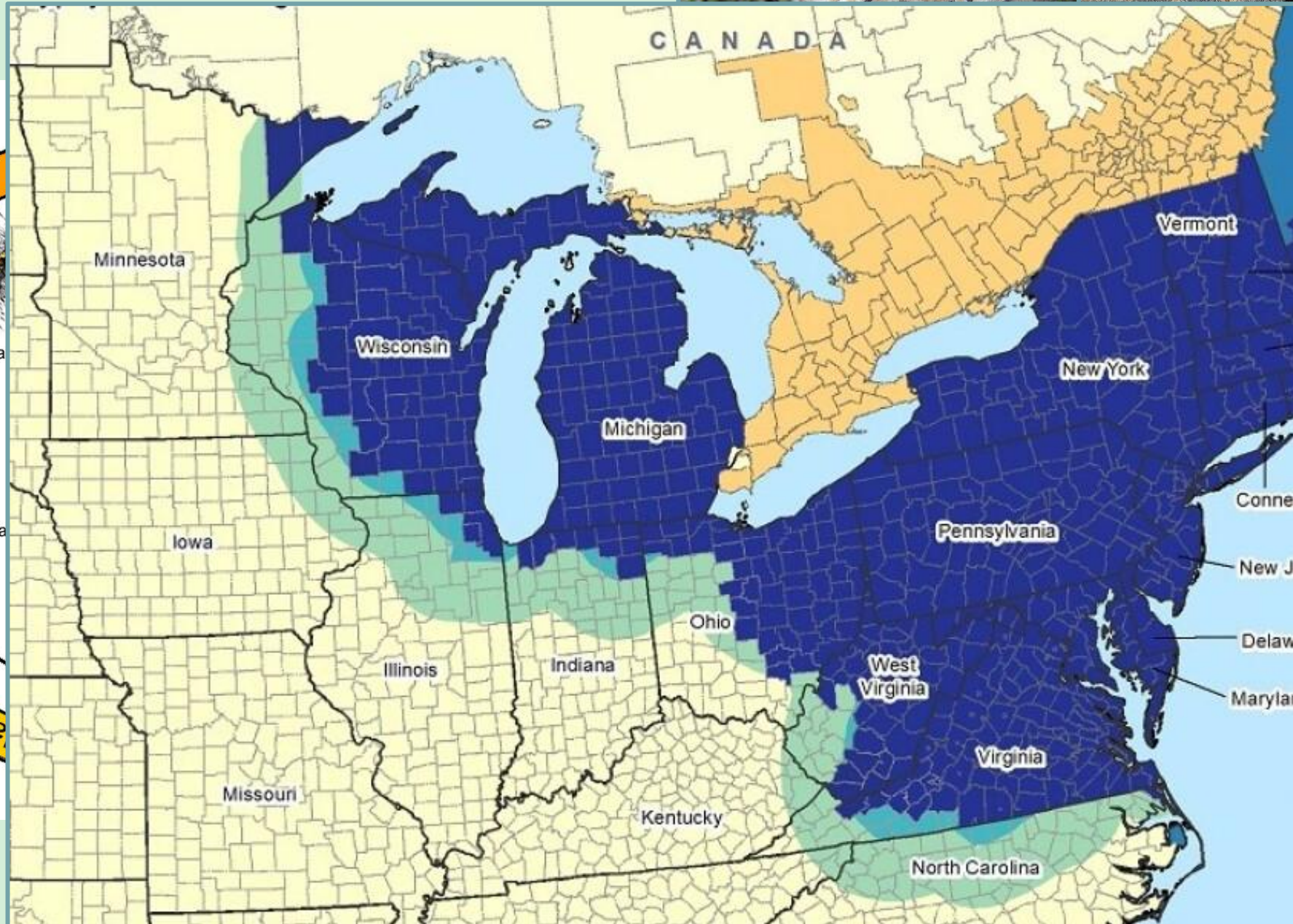
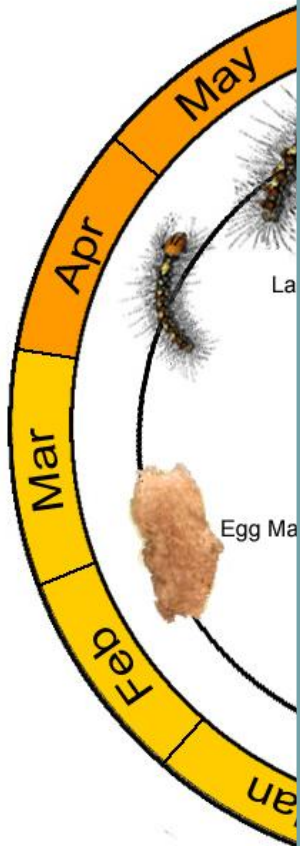
The pupa finally turn into ALB adults (beetles) and leave its host tree by large, round exit holes in the bark

The ALB larva pupate and go through up to 13 growth phases



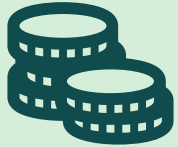
Joe Boggs, OSU Extension

Spongy Moth



Male Spongy Moths have been trapped in Montana on multiple occasions.

What to do?



Buy firewood where you burn it.



Buy certified heat-treated firewood.



Gather firewood on site when permitted.



Do not transport any excess unburned firewood.



Share these guidelines.

FIREWOOD ALERT!

HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE FOREST PESTS.

Our forests are threatened by invasive tree-killing pests like emerald ash borer, spongy moth, and Asian longhorned beetle that can hitchhike on firewood.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Leave firewood at home – buy local firewood at or near your destination, or collect firewood on site when permitted.
- Buy or collect only what you'll need, and burn it all completely by the end of your stay.
- If you have already moved firewood, use it immediately. Do not take it home with you, and do not leave excess firewood on site.

BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT.



**DON'T MOVE
FIREWOOD**.org



The Nature
Conservancy
nature.org

Why Awareness is Important

- Many people don't understand the threat.
- Regulations/awareness is inconsistent across the nation.
- Prevention is key
- Unknowingly transporting eggs/larval stages is easy.

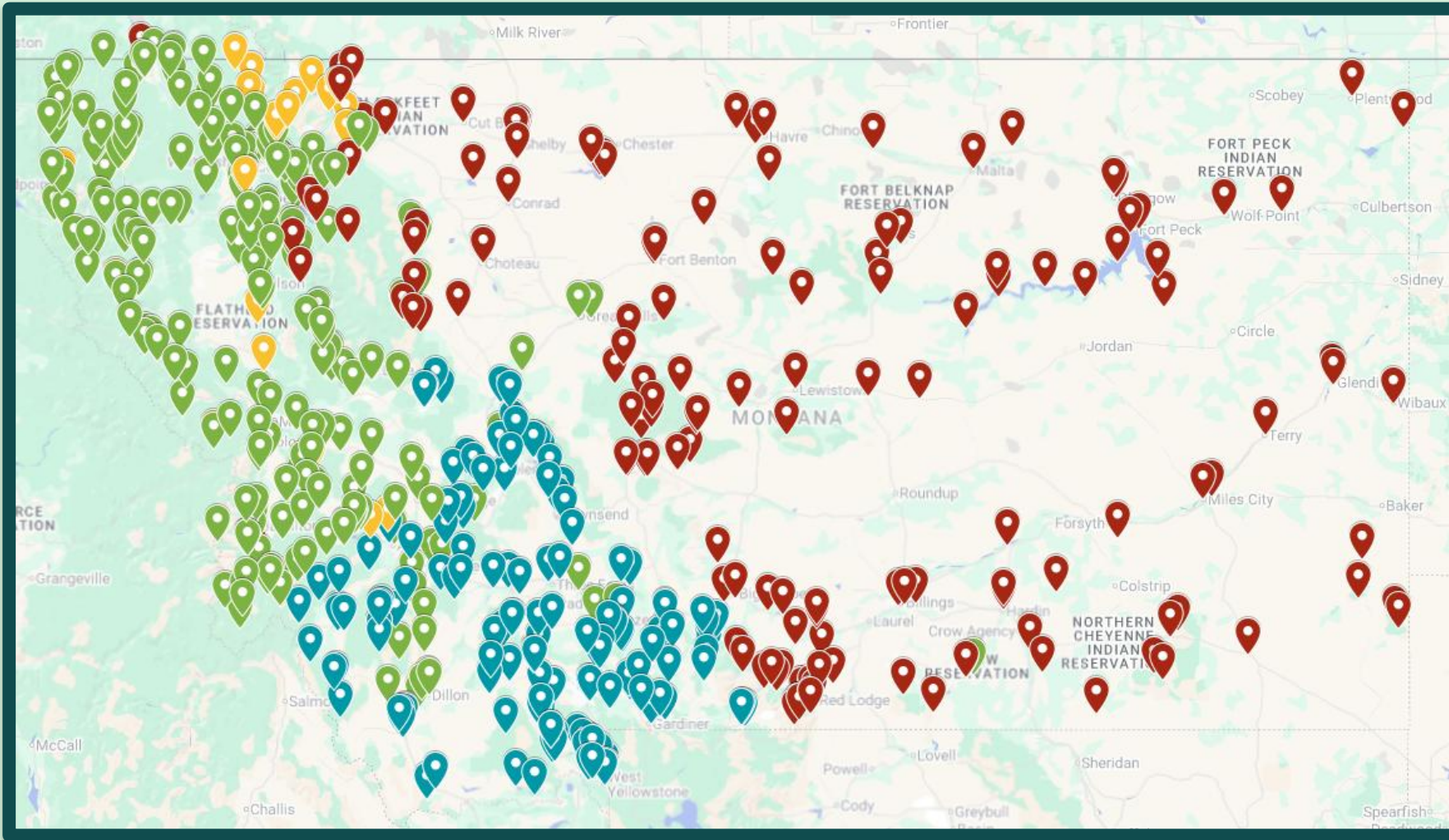


Direct Outreach with MCC

- Visited 217 sites
- Distributed 300 posters
- Most campsites were supportive of the messaging.
- Believed it was important that more campers understand the risks of moving firewood.



2025 Visits



Yellow: Priority 1 campsites

Blue: Priority 2 campsites

Red: Lowest priority campsites

Green: Visited

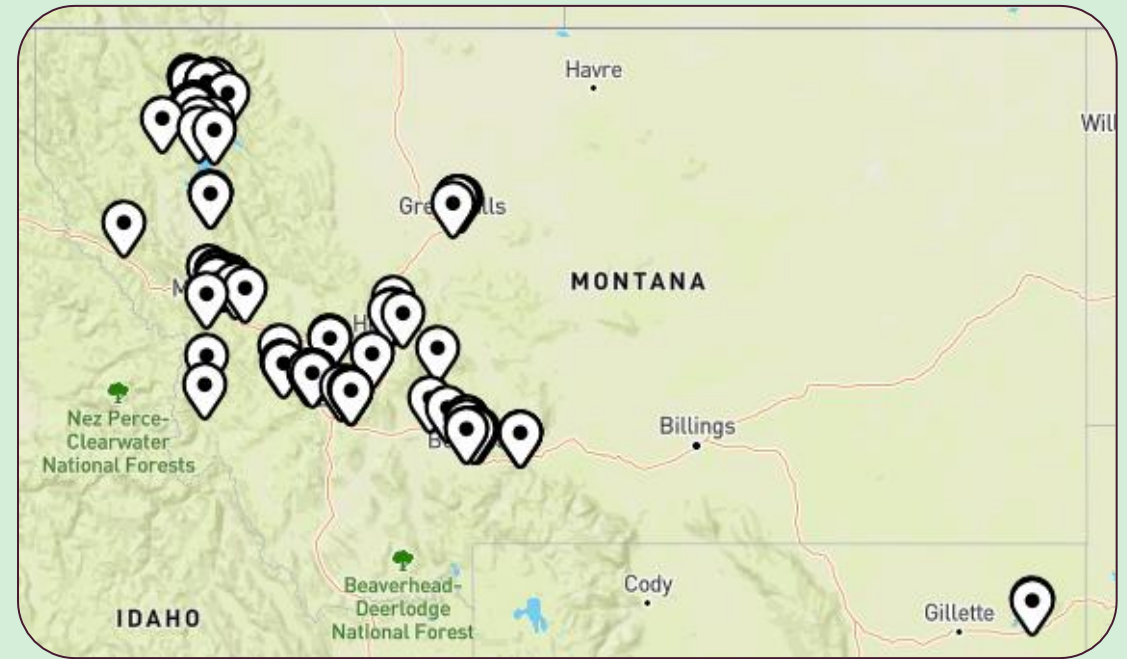
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1xdauvEQSVoFYZz-LTCAr080gA3jO5ng&usp=sharing>



Additional Resources



- Firewood map
- Crowd-sourced
- Not comprehensive



Sources

- 1) Angelica Solano, Shari L Rodriguez, Leigh Greenwood, Kevin J Dodds, David R Coyle, Firewood Transport as a Vector of Forest Pest Dispersal in North America: A Scoping Review, *Journal of Economic Entomology*, Volume 114, Issue 1, February 2021, Pages 14–23, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jee/toaa278>
- 2) **Economic Impacts of Non-Native Forest Insects in the Continental United States**
Aukema JE, Leung B, Kovacs K, Chivers C, Britton KO, et al. (2011) Economic Impacts of Non-Native Forest Insects in the Continental United States. PLOS ONE 6(9): e24587. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0024587>
- 3) Frank H. Koch, Denys Yemshanov, Roger D. Magarey, William D. Smith, Dispersal of Invasive Forest Insects via Recreational Firewood: A Quantitative Analysis, *Journal of Economic Entomology*, Volume 105, Issue 2, 1 April 2012, Pages 438–450, <https://doi.org/10.1603/EC11270>
- 4) Holmes, T.P., Aukema, J.E., Von Holle, B., Liebhold, A. and Sills, E. (2009), Economic Impacts of Invasive Species in Forests. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 1162: 18-38. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1749-6632.2009.04446.x>
- 5) Torson AS, Zhang ML, Ong K, Mohammad L, Smith AJ, Doucet D, Roe AD, Sinclair BJ. Cold tolerance of laboratory-reared Asian longhorned beetles. *Comp Biochem Physiol A Mol Integr Physiol*. 2021 Jul;257:110957. doi: 10.1016/j.cbpa.2021.110957. Epub 2021 Apr 20. PMID: 33848644.
- 6) Runberg, Damon. *Educating Pacific Northwest Campers On the Risk of Spreading Invasive Forest Pests Through Firewood: Developing a Mental Model*. : Oregon State University, 2011.
- 7) <https://www.dontmovefirewood.org/>
- 8) <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialanimals/eab/winter.html>
- 9) <https://extension.unh.edu/resource/spongy-moth-fact-sheet>



**DON'T MOVE
FIREWOOD.org**

Thank you/Questions



Russ Hartzell
Russ.Hartzell2@mt.gov
Invasivespecies.mt.gov



Oregon AIS Prevention Updates



Keith DeHart

*Invasive Species and Wildlife
Integrity Supervisor*



Oregon AIS Program Overview

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Oversee Watercraft Inspection Stations
- Both Aquatic and Terrestrial Responsibilities

Oregon State Marine Board

- AISPP Financial and Contract Management
- Outreach and Education Materials

Portland State University

- Early detection sampling for Quagga and Zebra Mussels

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

- Ballast Water Program

Enforcement

- Contracted with Oregon State Police and Malheur County Police

Oregon Invasive Species Council

- Coordination and State Government Relationship for All Taxa



Photo Credit: W. Baldwin (WesternAIS.org)

Oregon & Washington Freshwater Invasive Mussel Bistate Agreement



Coordinated public awareness



Rapid response readiness



Increased prevention efforts

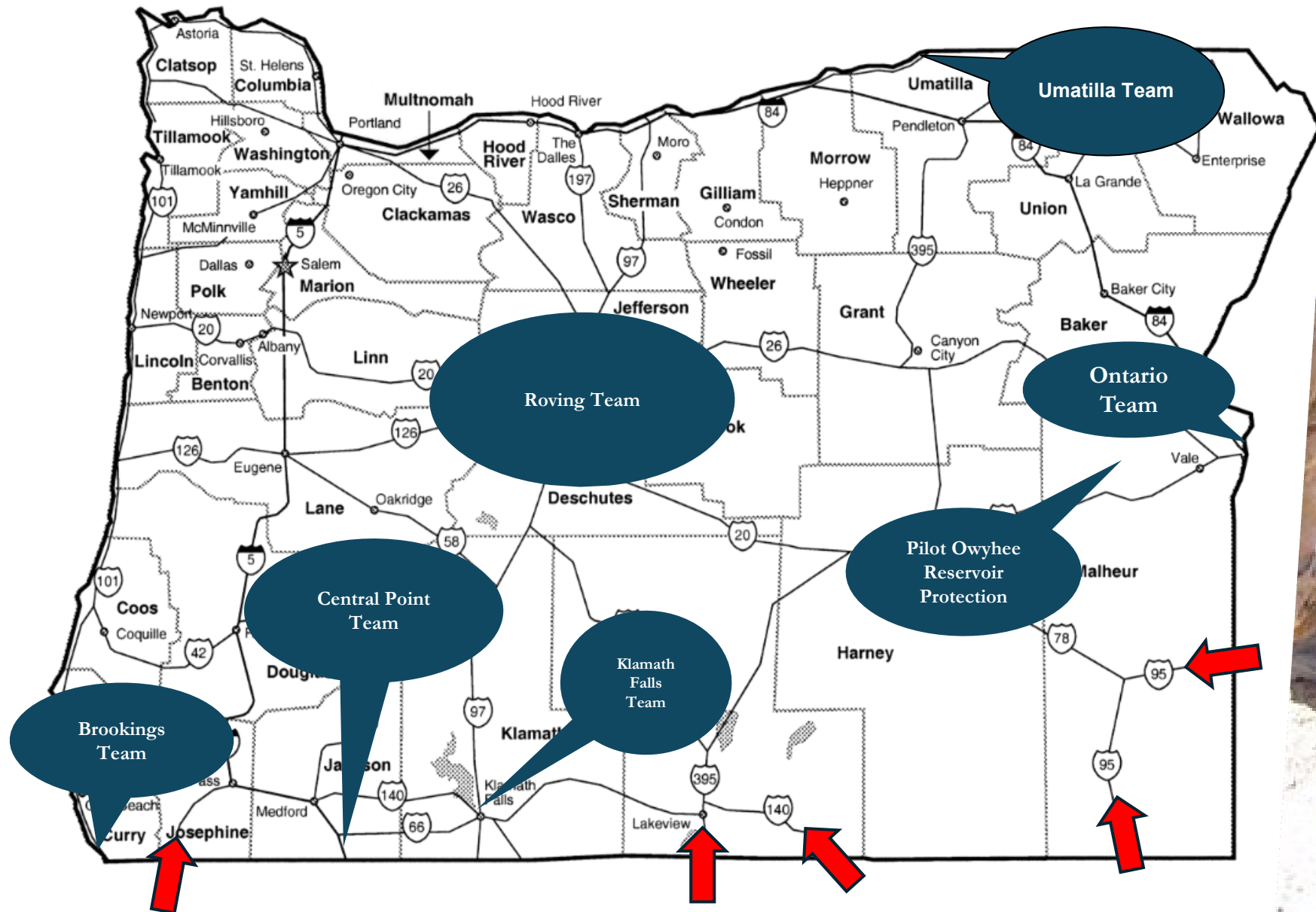


Research



Partnerships

Current Watercraft Inspection Stations



Simulated Dreissenid Mussel Detection at Lake Owyhee

Based on a scenario where veligers were detected near Indian Creek Campground, triggering a coordinated rapid response involving multiple agencies.

Identified Needs

- ICS training needed
- Permitting clarifications
- Emergency fund access
- Declaration of emergency process
- Improved tribal engagement
- Finalizing updated response plan

Lake Owyhee, Oregon

Invasive Freshwater Mussel Rapid Response Exercise

September 2025

After Action Report



2025 Updates HB2982

- Bi-partisan bill to strengthens Oregon's ability to prevent and respond to aquatic invasive species by increasing funding through boating-related fees and expanding permit requirements.

BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026
ALL PADDLECRAFT



Current exemptions apply

**Required to
purchase and
carry/display a
Waterway Access
Permit**

7-Day Permit = \$6
1 Year Permit = \$20
2 Year Permit = \$35
+ Volume discounts to
registered boat rental
businesses

*Revenue is dedicated to Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection/Decontamination efforts
and improving paddling access in Oregon*

Per HB 2982 - 2025 Legislative Session

2025 Updates – HB2170

- Expands Oregon's capacity to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) by **authorizing intergovernmental agreements** for watercraft inspections and decontamination.
- Currently developing protocols and expectations.
- Effective January 1st, 2026



2025 Updates – HB2170

- Partner Stations Requirements:
 - Local Government, Service District, or Tribal Government with borders within Oregon
 - Intergovernmental agreement with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
 - Trained by Western Regional Panel approved staff.
 - Appropriate Approach Signage for Location.
 - Data Collection in Western States Database hosted by Colorado



1% for Wildlife (HB4134)

- Increase transient lodging tax 1.25%
- Expected to raise \$30-42M annually for Oregon conservation needs
- Estimated \$600k annually for Oregon Invasive Species Council work
- Introduced Feb 2, 2026; hearing Feb 4
- Bipartisan sponsors





Keith DeHart

*Invasive Species and Wildlife
Integrity Supervisor*

503-947-6308

keith.b.dehart@odfw.Oregon.gov



*Photo Credit: [Alberta Invasive
Species Council](#)*

Recent Tribal Resolutions, BIA Invasive Species Grants, and CRITFC Northern Pike Monitoring in the Columbia River Basin

Blaine Parker

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

**Regional Invasive Species Efforts Update
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Meeting**

February 10, 2026



Tribal Perspectives on Invasive Species

- Tribal people tied to Mother Earth
- Invasive Species impact tribal resources
- Impacted resources include earth, water, plants, and animals



Invasive Species (IS) Resolutions

- ATNI passed first IS Resolution in 2011
- Additional IS Resolution (#25-08)
- NCAI passed IS Resolution (#SEA-25-020) for more IS Federal Funding in 2026 and beyond



ATNI AIS Resolution 2011 Key Points

- **WHEREAS**, these **aquatic invasive species** are by definition non-native and invading species of plants, animals, microbes, and pathogens that can and do **negatively impact** the land, water, fish, wildlife, and plants by their presence and once established are very difficult to remove from the environment, and in many cases become **permanently established**
- **WHEREAS**, the member tribes of ATNI are currently **not funded or staffed appropriately** to provide their **unique expertise** to the existing state and federal collaboration or to provide sufficient **protection of first food** resources against the present and future impacts from aquatic invasive species
- **WHEREAS**, the States of **Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, Montana** and California currently are the **only protection for tribal first food resources** against the present and future impacts from aquatic invasive species, ATNI supports **current and future state efforts** to control and **prevent aquatic invasive species** and the threats they pose
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI and its member tribes will pursue **partnerships, cooperatives**, and other funding opportunities that will allow its **member tribes and tribal members** to become more **directly involved** in efforts to control and prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species throughout the Pacific Northwest to **protect the first food resources** so critical to our culture, heritage, and future existence.



ANTI Resolution (#25-08) Key Points

- **WHEREAS**, the ATNI is a **regional organization** comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and **Indian tribal governments** in the states of **Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska**, and
- **WHEREAS**, invasive predatory species such as **Northern Pike**, pose a risk to salmon, steelhead, and other resident, **treaty-protected fisheries**; and
- **WHEREAS**, invasive freshwater mussels, such as **quagga and zebra mussels** pose a threat to fisheries, habitat, hatcheries, and passage; and
- **WHEREAS**, invasive plants, such as **flowering rush**, pose a threat to lakes and riverine habitats and is conducive to salmon and resident fishery predators, such as **Northern Pike**; and
- **WHEREAS**, in recognition that Tribes and Tribal Organizations exert a critical level of effort in managing invasive species, the **State of Washington** is seeking federal appropriations to include **\$8 million** to the **BIA Invasive Species Program** for Northwestern Region invasive species management priorities; now
- **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI does hereby acknowledge the importance of invasive species prevention and management and request that the U.S. Congress **appropriate \$8 million** to the **BIA Invasive Species Program** for Northwestern Region invasive species management priorities in **Federal Fiscal Year 2025 and ongoing**; and
- **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that ATNI does hereby commit to identifying **priority invasive species** of greatest concern to **Northwest Tribes**, and to develop strategies to further Tribal, Tribal Organization, regional, state, and federal policy as it relates to the prevention and management of invasive species.



NCAI IS Resolution #SEA-25-020 Key Points

- **WHEREAS**, the **National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)** was established in 1944 and is the oldest and **largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments**; and
- **WHEREAS**, United States Presidential **Executive Order 13112**, defines an “invasive species” as a species that is: 1) non-native (or alien) the ecosystem under consideration and, 2) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health; and
- **WHEREAS**, invasive predatory species, pose **a risk to first foods**, agriculture, livestock, and **treaty-protected resources** that tribes depend upon; and
- **WHEREAS**, the **BIA, Branch of Fisheries, Wildlife and Recreation (BFWR)** provides annual competitive funding to federally-recognized Tribes and Tribal Organizations’ projects to address the negative impacts of invasive species on their lands. For the BFWR **Invasive Species Program**, “invasive species” includes plants and animals that negatively impact Tribes and their natural resources; and
- **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Congress of American Indians requests that the **U.S. Congress** appropriate **adequate federal appropriations** to each of the BIA Invasive Species Program, NIFA and APHIS for Tribal invasive species management priorities in **Federal Fiscal Year 2026 and ongoing**; and
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, in recognition that Tribes and Tribal Organizations across the U.S. exert a critical level of effort in managing invasive species in all BIA regions, NCAI **recommends** that BIA, USDA, Tribes, and Tribal Organizations **identify priority invasive species of greatest concern** and determine BIA Invasive Species funding needs within each BIA Region as well as USDA Invasive Species funding in its agencies, to inform a future NCAI resolution and request to the U.S. Government; and
- **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the **policy of NCAI** until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.



Why these Resolutions Matter

- Reservation lands in lower 48 encompass 52 million acres
- Additional 38 million acres with Ceded and Usual and Accustomed lands
- These lands contain over 730k acres of lakes and 10,000 Miles of streams and rivers and a total natural resource base of 140,625 square miles.
- This land combined would constitute the fifth largest state in the United States.



Funding Status 2026

- FY 2026 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Report Language
 - 14.3 Million in Senate language
 - No value given but “the Committee encourages BIA to continue supporting efforts to address the problem of the European Green Crab which impacts marine resources for Tribal communities in the Pacific Northwest”
 - No mention of other invasive species issues



CRITFC Northern Pike Monitoring for 2025

- Emphasis on John Day & McNary reservoirs
- 38 eDNA samples, 24 locations
- 9 locations sampled, 13 overnight experimental gillnet sets, nearly 500 non-native fish, 14 native fish ☹️
- No Northern Pike detected 😊
- Noted increasing eutrophication and macrophyte growth creating more Northern Pike habitat



2026 Plans

- Continue Northern Pike monitoring efforts
- Maintain ANS outreach efforts with tribal staff
- Continue Northern Pike outreach to tribal fishers
- Participate in regional golden mussel working group
- Participate in OR & WA invasive mussel RR planning efforts
- Continue O&E on reservoir maturation and options for remediation

